

WINNIPEG ELECTRIC COMPANY AND ITS EMPLOYEES

Facts and Figures For Your Information

BULLETIN NO. 11, OCTOBER 31, 1940

PRESIDENT W. H. CARTER DISCUSSES COMPANY ACTIVITIES WITH WINNIPEG ELECTRIC CLUB

President W. H. Carter gave the main address at the opening general meeting of the season of the Winnipeg Electric Club. Mr. Carter outlined a number of very important matters the Company is dealing with and will have to deal with in the near future.

In the course of his remarks Mr. Carter stated: "We have the responsibility of guiding the destinies of a great public service corporation and when I say 'public service' I mean just that in the true sense of the word.

"At the outset may I point out that I, like many of you, have used a pick and shovel. I know from personal experience many of the problems that beset the wage earner and consequently will take a sympathetic interest in the welfare and well-being of the employees of Winnipeg Electric Company. That is another reason why I think we should meet together occasionally and frankly discuss Company problems.

Courtesy Absolutely Essential

"Courtesy is one of the first requirements in doing business successfully. We are in a competitive business which demands the very highest standard of service. You are competing with the automobile, whose makers have skilled engineers slaving day and night to reduce their cost and increase their comfort and safety. They are our competition and our service must be bettered continually to hold our place in the service of this community—a public service. Our equipment must be modern and comfortable: our personnel courteous and capable. I sometimes wonder, when a great number of complaints come to my desk each week from the patrons of our service—and so few compliments—if we are all on our toes and realize our responsibility.

"Do you realize that in the past twenty years there has been a decrease in street car riding of 45% per capita? This has been due principally

to automobile competition but it has been partly due to our inability to keep our equipment and service abreast of the times.

New Transportation Franchise

"We have approached the City for a new up-to-date franchise and we are prepared to spend money on modernizing our system if given a modern franchise and some relief in taxes which will enable us to do so. We have offered them a good deal and, if accepted, we will have in five years the most up-to-date transportation system in Canada. We do not object to paying our share of City taxes; but just now, compared to other cities, we are being penalized and I feel that we are justified in asking for a fair deal — a fighting chance to live; to deal fairly with our employees; perhaps to arrange for some form of a pension scheme, which we need so badly; and to build up a system of street cars and buses of which our patrons as well as we will be justly proud.

Use the Street Cars and Buses

"In closing this portion of my address let me call your attention to a phase of automobile competition. This Company has dozens of employees who drive their automobiles to and from work. If you will not use our service, even if you do have to stand up, how are we going to get the public to use it? That, gentlemen, is one of our problems.

"Our employees must not relax their efforts in notifying the Sales Department of every new house, store, factory or other building we can serve or of friends moving where there is a chance to secure a contract for light or power. Every effort must be made by each and every member of our Company to promote friendship and business and secure sales.

Tony Asks for Your Assistance

"Tony Mahon operates the Appliance Department and wants the help of every employee in stimulating sales. First, he wants them to form the habit of purchasing electric or gas appliances from the Appliance Department and points out that in doing this we can help ourselves as we receive 15% discount on all purchases under \$25.00 and 10% on all purchases over \$25.00; and that we also help our fellow employees who are working on commission, as salesmen get a small commission on the sales they make. He asks, as the Electric Sales Department does, that the Appliance Department be told of any customers who may be talking of changing old equipment for new, or customers moving into new houses, or newly married couples starting homes; and he offers to pay a commission to the employees turning in information of that character if a sale results from the information given.

Tons of Winneco Coke For Sale

"Mr. Harris has from 45,000 to 50,000 tons of coke to sell annually. He also wants to put domestic gas cooking back on the map; and he doesn't let us forget the benefits we will reap if we use and advocate his Winneco Coke and if we help to stimulate sales of gas, both for industrial and domestic purposes. Splendid work is being done in this direction by the Appliance and Gas Departments.

"I am proud of the accident prevention record this Company has made and look to you key men to co-operate in preserving it and, if possible, improve it.

"I would like at this time to pay special tribute to our men out in the front line—our men in charge of the power plants and transmission lines. It is a pleasure to visit these plants and see the care and attention every detail receives. This is one of the important producing ends of our Company and must be maintained by loyal and capable men, which they are."



ABILITY TO SPEAK PROPERLY MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

It is always valuable to be able to say what you think in a manner that is tactful and understandable. In times of national crisis such as we are now experiencing the importance of clear thinking and the ability to express such thoughts is invaluable.

Realizing this, President W. H. Carter has authorized the opening up again this year of the Winnipeg Electric Public Speaking Club.

Membership in the club is free to male employees and the first meeting will be held Tuesday, November 5th from 8 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. on the second floor, Electric Railway Chambers. Subsequent meetings will be held each Tuesday at the same time and place.

A competent instructor will give instruction in public speaking each evening, members will be encouraged to make speeches themselves and will be advised **privately** regarding ways in which they can improve themselves.

The executive committee in charge consists of Messrs. L. D. Duncan, D. Inkster and E. McNeill.

A very fine silver cup will be awarded to the best speaker in the club at the end of the season.

If you would like to join advise A. E. Parker, 411 Electric Railway Chambers. Phone 904 209.



"NOW'S THE TIME TO ROLL THE BARREL"

The Winnipeg Electric Old Timers' Association, through its Secretary, Steve Duff, announce to all and sundry that the most important date on the calendar at the moment is Friday, November 8th, the most important time on that day, 8.15 p.m.

and the most important place at that time, the Majestic Hotel.

In other words, one of those always pleasant smoking concerts will be held then and there—admission \$1.00.

It is expected that the City of Winnipeg Hydro Old Timers will be on hand in force—so don't forget our old chairman. Turn out in goodly numbers. All male Company employees are invited.



GREAT FALLS AND PINAWA WAR AUXILIARY

“Give till it hurts—for freedom.” This is the expressive slogan of the Great Falls and Pinawa War Auxiliary operated at the two power plants referred to.

This Auxiliary is one of the most active and best administered war service organizations we have heard of.

Secretary-Treasurer J. O. Jones reported on October 5: “Pinawa has collected by contributions \$242.40 and by projects \$44.40. Great Falls by contributions has collected \$639.74, and by projects \$147.95. so that our organization has contributed and collected a total of \$1,074.49. Over and above this the Ladies are knitting steadily, and as a result of our efforts we have shipped overseas:

104 parcels of miscellaneous articles—woollens, soaps, chocolates, etc.

153 shipments of 300 cigarettes each.

107 2-lb. fruit cakes.

The officers are: Great Falls—President, Mayor K. C. Fergusson; Vice-President, Mrs. S. H. McIntyre, W. D. Johnston, A. F. Bartley; Sec.-Treas., J. O. Jones. Pinawa Officers—Chairman, M. E. Wentz; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. C. M. Holmgren, Mrs. H. Leith, M. Pearson, E. Fuller; Local Secretary, W. W. Loveridge.

Carry on, Great Falls and Pinawa. It's a fine piece of work you are doing.



MIXED FIVE PIN BOWLING LEAGUE COMMENCES ACTIVITIES

The Winnipeg Electric Mixed Five Pin Bowling League is organized for the Fall and Winter Season, the officers elected being: President, L. Newman—Gas Sales department; Vice-President, H. Dunham—Gas Utility department; Secretary, Miss J. Parker—Appliance department; Treasurer, Miss C. Crozier—Consumers' Accounts department.